

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1763

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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FAA BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EIND, XT, FR

SUBJ: CIVAIR: EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY COOPERATION

REF: EAL; PARIS 19354 (NOTAL)

1. CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF CIVAIR MATTERS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, TELLS US THAT INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING TO DISCUSS AIR FRANCE FLEET RENEWAL AND NEW CIVIL AIRCRAFT PROJECTS IS NOW SCHEDULED TO BE HELD TOMORROW, JULY 30. WHILE SHE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN ASSISTING IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING, SHE CLAIMED THAT SHE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA WHAT THE OUTCOME WOULD BE SINCE SO MANY DIFFERENT PROPOSALS WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

2. SHE DID SAY THAT IT WAS EVIDENT GOF WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COME UP WITH A "EUROPEAN" SOLUTION. THERE WAS MUCH MOVEMENT ON THIS FRONT, SHE NOTED, AND SHE REFERRED TO RECENT MEETING BETWEEN GISCARD
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AND SCHMIDT, UPCOMING SUMMIT AT HELSINKI THAT WOULD

BE OCCASION FOR FURTHER EUROPEAN TALKS, AND LASTLY RENEWED EFFORTS BY SPINELLI IN BRUSSELS TO RELAUNCH HIS IDEAS FOR A "EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY".

3. WE MENTIONED RECENT TALK WE HAD HAD WITH JEAN-MARIE RICHE, EDITOR OF FRENCH AVIATION TRADE WEEKLY AIR ET COSMOS AND CONSIDERED ONE OF BEST INFORMED PERSONS ON FRENCH AVIATION SCENE. RICHE HAD DIS-COUNTED LIKELIHOOD OF EMERGENCE OF A "EUROPEAN" INDUSTRY ON THE GROUNDS THAT FRANCE COULD NOT FIND A LARGE AND AFFLUENT ENOUGH PARTNER. HE ARGUED THAT UK ECONOMY WAS IN SUCH TROUBLE THAT NEITHER GOVERNMENT NOR INDUSTRY IN UK HAD FUNDS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A NEW JOINT VENTURE WITH FRANCE; GERMAN INDUSTRY WAS VERY SMALL AND GERMANS ANYWAY WERE CONTENT TO BUY AMERICAN AIRCRAFT; DUTCH INDUSTRY WAS SMALL; AND OTHER EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES DIDN'T AMOUNT TO MUCH.

4. CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE SAID THAT IT NOW LOOKED AS IF AT OUTSET GOF WOULD SETTLE FOR FRANCO-GERMAN COOPERATION AS A STARTER FOR JOINT DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF A NEW CIVIL TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT. SHE SAID HER OWN PERSONAL PREFERENCE WOULD BE FOR COOPERATION WITH US AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION THAT HAD DEVELOPED BETWEEN GE AND SNECMA ON CFM-56 ENGINE PROJECT. SHE FURTHER CONFIRMED THAT CFM-56 ENGINE WAS AT CENTER OF MOST OF GOF'S PREOCCUPATIONS OVER THE FUTURE OF THE FRENCH AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY.
GAMMON

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